

REMARKS

Applicants have reviewed the Advisory Action mailed 12/09/2003 (Paper No. 16) and thank the Examiner for the allowance of claim 29. Claims 1-18, 21, 22, 30 and 31 have been rejected. In order to expedite prosecution of the application, claims 1, 18, 20-28 and 30-31 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 2, 6, and 8 and 10-12 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 29. Therefore, upon entry of this amendment, claims 2-17 and 29 will be pending.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 29 has been allowed.

II. Drawings

The drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description: 30, 68, 230. Applicants submit a set of corrected drawings, which accompany this amendment, removing reference numerals 30, 68 and 230 from Figures 1, 2, 3, and 4.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

A. Claims 1-10 and 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,951,974 to Schabert et al ("Schabert"). Claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer rendering the rejection with respect to this claim moot. Additionally, claims 2-10 and 12-14 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 29. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection with respect to claims 1-10 and 12-14 be withdrawn.

B. Claims 1-10, 12-18, 21, 22, 30 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,207,535 to Wilson ("Wilson"). Claims 1, 18, 21, 22, 30 and 31 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer rendering the rejection with respect to these claims moot. Additionally, claims 2-10 and 12-14 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 29. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection with respect to claims 1-10, 12-18, 21, 22, 30 and 31 be withdrawn.

IV. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

A. Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schabert in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,280,723 to Moldestad ("Moldestad"). Claim 11 has been amended to depend from allowed claim 29. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection with respect to claim 11 be withdrawn.

B. Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wilson in view of Moldestad. Claim 11 has been amended to depend from allowed claim 29. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection with respect to claim 11 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. 65857-0033 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Bradley J. Diedrich

Registration No.: 47,526

Michael B. Stewart

Registration No.: 36,018

Rader, Fishman & Grauer PLLC

39533 Woodward Avenue, Ste 140

Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

(248) 594-0651

Attorneys for Applicant